

From: [Grayce Liu](#)
To: [done.ncsupport](#)
Subject: TIME SENSITIVE Neighborhood Council Updates
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2015 7:30:12 PM

Dear Neighborhood Council Leaders,

I hope this email finds you well and enjoying your summer. There are a few things coming up that I wanted to email you directly about in case you haven't seen it in our weekly EmpowerLA newsletter, which goes out every Friday.

Check it out:

1. Neighborhood Council System Town Hall Agenda

Saturday, July 25, 2015 12pm - 4 pm
Hollywood Constituent Center, 6501 Fountain Ave.
(see details below)

2. Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and Mayor's Budget Survey

-[Budget Survey](#) extended until Friday, July 31, 2015

3. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners EmpowerLA Awards and Survey

-[submit your awesome work](#) for the EmpowerLA Awards by August 1, 2015 and be recognized

-take [this survey](#) on the policies before the Commission - they want to hear from you!

4. Neighborhood Councils and Public Funds

-Thanks to the City Attorney's Office, we've been able to recover \$5,000 in public funds after the City took a former Neighborhood Council board member to court for paying his company to perform work for his Neighborhood Council, which is a big no-no. Every board member needs to be aware of how their Neighborhood Council is spending its yearly allocation of public funds and that it is done correctly. When in doubt, please contact our office.

5. Neighborhood Council Rosters

-the rosters on our website are only as good as the information you provide to us so please let us know asap if there are any changes to your board, including in the Executive Officers. The entire City uses our rosters to keep in touch with you - your stakeholders' representative - so you can advocate for and/or pass the message about planning, safety, homelessness, etc. issues on to them.

Please check [your rosters](#) on our website regularly to make sure they are up-to-date. Changes can be sent to rosters@empowerla.org where we will update our website weekly.

6. FY 2015-2016 Yearly Allocation

-Neighborhood Councils have a yearly allocation of \$37,000 this year so please make sure your submitted budgets reflect this amount

-Council President Wesson has provided an additional \$5,000 in funding this year to Neighborhood Councils. When City Council comes back from recess in

August, we will know if there are any restrictions to these funds so you can make any adjustments to your budget once that is clear

-We are splitting the \$37,000 quarterly and will transfer \$9,250 each quarter.

Any unspent FY 2014-2015 funds in your checking account, which is not held by an outstanding check that was cut by June 30, 2015, will be transferred back to the City within the next 30 days as the proposed Neighborhood Council rollover policy has not been decided by City Council. We will notify your board of the transfer before it happens though.

Neighborhood Council System Town Hall

Saturday, July 25, 2015 12pm - 4 pm

Hollywood Constituent Center, 6501 Fountain Ave.

As we continue our efforts to innovate our policies and procedures and start preparing our budget proposal for next fiscal year, we'd like to debrief with our Neighborhood Council board members about what works, what could work better and what you'd like to see in the next few years. With the changes in staffing, we are looking to reorganize internally based on the needs expressed by the Neighborhood Councils so help us help you!

Agenda - (These are estimated times)

12 pm - 1:30 pm - How to put the fun into the Neighborhood Council Funding Program?

- what changes would you like to see in the existing procedures and forms and where we are heading in the next year - Hello, online funding submissions and e-signatures!

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm - How can we provide you with better support so you can meet your mission of increasing civic engagement and making government more responsive to local needs?

- meeting support - staffing meetings, Neighborhood Council Support Helpline, or...?
- capacity building from EmpowerLA Leadership Academy and Neighborhood Council Civic University as well as expanded services through our temporary services Request for Proposals
- measuring the impact of Neighborhood Councils on City activities, including a discussion on Community Impact Statements
- connecting you to the City elected and departments your stakeholders want to learn about and dialogue with, including partnering with citywide campaigns based on Mayor Garcetti's "Back to Basics" priorities
- rosters - why it matters that we know who the board members are so how do we get there
- next steps for the new citywide Neighborhood Council Grievance Panel System
- next steps for Councils for Councils mentor program

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - How do we rock Neighborhood Council outreach and s/elections?

- where are you getting stuck on your outreach efforts and how can we support one another
- the "substantial and ongoing" Community Interest Stakeholder - are we done defining this?
- election and online voting - finalizing issues of candidate training, when the boards get seated and challenges

3:30 pm - 4 pm - Free for all

- what other issues do we need to work on?

Refreshments will be provided. If you can't join us, no worries, we'll be sending out a survey as well so you can provide your feedback, too.

As always, thank you for the amazing work you do for your communities and your City!
Have a great evening!

Best,

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